

962-T1-656

Dennis P Walsh* (dwalsh@mtsu.edu), Department of Mathematical Sciences, Box 34, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN 37132. *Strolls through the French Quarter with my pal Pascal.*

By taking random walks within the grid of city blocks that form the oldest district of New Orleans, we will visit derivations of some historically prominent arithmetic probability distributions. Taking a corner boundary of the French Quarter as our starting point, we overlay Pascal's triangle on the Quarter's grid and then use binomial coefficients to count walks of various types. The probability landmarks we encounter on our stroll will include the binomial, hypergeometric, and negative binomial distributions. If time permits, our tour might visit other more arcane sites. (Received September 19, 2000)